

Mother's Day

May 8, 2009

Greetings!

With the upcoming Mother's Day holiday, I thought you'd like to know about recent legislation that I have voted for and Congress has passed to help mothers, grandmothers, and children across our country.

For America's Mothers

Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act:
Restores the right of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay in court. Specifically, it rectifies the May 2007 Ledbetter v Goodyear Supreme Court decision that overturned precedent and made it much more difficult for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims. Was the first major bill to be signed into law by President Obama.

Budget Conference Agreement:
Includes numerous provisions to address the needs and improve the lives of America's mothers and their families, including providing investments to improve K-12 education; investing in a clean energy economy to launch a sustainable era of job creation; creating a deficit-neutral fund for health care reform that will cut costs and expand coverage; and cutting the deficit by nearly two-thirds by 2013.

The Recovery Act:
Includes many provisions to benefit America's mothers, including providing tax cuts to 95 percent of working families, including millions of female-headed households; investing in additional child care; preventing cutbacks in Medicaid coverage, upon which millions of women and children rely; expanding nutrition assistance available to families; and expanding job opportunities and job training for women.

For America's Grandmothers

The Recovery Act: Includes a series of provisions that will benefit seniors, including the following:

\$250 Economic Recovery Payments for Seniors:

Provides a \$250 payment to millions of America's seniors, with the payments being sent out to seniors during the month of May.

Senior Nutrition Programs:

Provides \$100 million for senior nutrition programs, including congregate meals and home-delivered meals. Is expected to provide nearly 14 million additional seniors' meals.

Protecting Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries:

Extends the Qualified Individual (QI) program, which assists certain low-income Medicare beneficiaries with their Medicare Part B premiums.

Preventing Certain Scheduled Cuts in Medicare: Blocks a scheduled Medicare payment reduction to teaching hospitals, and a scheduled Medicare payment reduction to hospices.

For America's Children

Health Care for 11 Million Children:

Renews and improves the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) — preserving coverage for 7 million children currently covered by CHIP and extending coverage to 4 million uninsured but eligible children. Was the second major bill to be signed into law by President Obama.

FDA Regulation of Tobacco Products: Has a key aim of reducing underage smoking with such new regulations as:

- Banning all remaining tobacco-brand sponsorships of sports and entertainment events;
- Restricting vending machines to adult-only facilities; and
- Requiring retailers to verify age for all over-the-counter sales.

Budget Conference Agreement:

Includes numerous provisions to address the needs of children and youth, including increasing K-12 education funding to raise student achievement; supporting early childhood education; and making college more affordable and accessible.

The Recovery Act:

Includes key investments in Head Start and Early Head Start; child support enforcement; nutrition for women, infants, and children; K-12 education; and increasing the maximum Pell Grant.

I will continue to work hard for mothers, grandmothers, and children in Congress by voting on legislation that will benefit all American families. I hope you and your loved ones have a blessed Mother's Day. As always, I rely on and value your thoughts and ideas on the issues you care about, so please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo

Member of Congress